

Most flood watchers take bit of a breather and cross their fingers

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Flood watchers had a quiet day Wednesday as mostly sunny skies over much of Utah kept high temperatures around the 70-degree mark.

David James, a geographer who maintains Brigham Young University's weather station, said warm days and cool nights provide the perfect weather for stalling potential flooding by melting mountain snowpack slowly.

In Davis County, officials reported a slide is blocking Skyline Drive, a rutted dirt Forest Service road near the snow line in the hills east of Bountiful.

The slide, first noticed Sunday, is about a half mile up Stone Creek Canyon in an area known as Deadman's Curve.

Once used for watershed management driving tours, the road is

no longer used much except by four-wheel-drive vehicles, county officials said. Because of the slide, the county has closed the road east of 13th East.

Davis officials reported no significant problems with other slide or creek trouble areas.

Officials of Great Salt Lake Minerals and Chemicals Corp. reported the runoff-swollen Great Salt Lake has broken through a dike and damaged a pond from which the company extracts minerals. The extent of damage hasn't been determined.

The rising lake water also forced lane restrictions along I-80 at Grantsville.

Utah Highway Patrol dispatchers reported U-119 was closed between Richfield and Glenwood because of culvert construction, and Black Rock Road between Milford and Delta was closed to all but emergency vehicles because of

water on the road.

In Millard County, where Friday's collapse of the Corn Creek irrigation dam sent water rushing into Kanosh, county commissioners declared a local disaster and sought state aid Tuesday. Water spilling through the broken dam washed out several county roads and rose to within a foot of the I-15 road surface before state crews dug ditches to divert it.

The south access road into town from I-15 remained closed, and the town could be reached only over one lane of the north access road from Meadow.

The Millard County declaration came on the same day that a fourth city in Sanpete County — Mayfield — declared itself disaster-stricken because of a canyon slide that threatened the city's water supply.

Sanpete County Commissioner Ned Madsen said Mayfield residents should see **FLOOD** on B-2

cent care as needed, although they are licensed as acute beds. The reimbursement for the swing beds is difficult for the hospitals to providing care at a lower without jeopardizing their

some government agencies putting limits on reimbursement put the rural hospitals in a catch 22 situation by demanding certain standards. The hospitals must have certain equipment, qualify for Medicare-Medicaid reimbursement, and maintain minimal staffs, regardless of how many patients are in the hospital at any given time.

Power is always a tough issue in communities where there is a shortage of doctors, nurses and other health professionals. May calls it his primary problem. By dividing the county into 53 full- and part-time health service areas, he is able to handle the distribution of utilization in a more pleasant hospital.

Under a general program, the National Health Service Corps, has been used to supplement Utah communities with doctors, nurses and other health professionals agree to spend some time in an underserved area in exchange for repayment by government loans for their education. The program fills a gap temporarily, but health professionals often fill their positions and then move on, leaving the communities with a serious recruitment problem. A

ners providing on-site coverage and backup.

For instance, the colored pins planted in the valleys between mountain chains on the Garfield Memorial wall map represent clinics in Escalante, Circleville, Bryce Valley and Long Valley.

The clinics are, in fact, a "loss leader," Ross said. They don't generate sufficient income to pay for themselves. But they do serve as a funnel into the hospital for patients whose needs outstrip clinic capabilities.

In recent years, many Utah communities have addressed the question of affiliating their hospital with a multihospital system. Only a handful continue to operate as city- or county-run facilities. They have their autonomy, but the affiliated hospitals have the backup of a central organization that provides group purchasing of equipment, supplies and liability insurance as well as technical expertise, planning and financing support for expansion.

"We work together to get what we need," said Ross, whose hospital is a part of the Intermountain Health Care system. The IHC central offices provide such things as training in DRG bookkeeping and a computer link that streamlines the small hospital operations.

As the pressures on small hospitals become more acute, there has been some casual conversation about consolidating some of the facilities, May said. Distance is a practical factor that precludes

are turned away because of lack of resources. Generally the people who are turned away have nowhere else to go.

The civil rights movement is one example of change brought about by public interest groups and the media, she said. "Changes in national mentality and laws were not initiated in government, and I don't believe they would have been."

"Think for a moment of the likely impact Martin Luther King would

Flood watch

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Residents have been advised to boil their water for fear surface water has contaminated the culinary system.

Three other Sanpete County cities — Ephraim, Manti and Fairview — had already declared their funds and manpower exhausted in protecting water supplies from slides triggered by the melting of record mountain snowpacks.

A boil water order remained in effect for residents of Ephraim and Manti.

Sharon Sevy, Ephraim emergency services director, said 15 or 20 feet of the main Ephraim Canyon road dropped Tuesday afternoon, cutting off traffic to the slide areas